



Request for Qualifications 4 Cow Bridge Public Art

INTRODUCTION

The Renton Municipal Arts Commission (RMAC), in collaboration with the South Renton Connection neighborhood group, seeks to commission the design of a permanent art sculpture. It is to be installed adjacent to the newly completed railroad bridge at Shattuck Avenue South and Houser Way South, within the public right-of-way, but outside vehicle travel lanes.

BACKGROUND

The "4 Cow Bridge" public art project will create a public art piece to pay tribute to the historical significance of the area. The Shattuck Avenue South undercrossing of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks was created in 1877. One of Renton's original homesteaders, Erasmus Smithers, gave a portion of his property to the Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad with the stipulation that the railroad would construct a tunnel to allow his dairy cows to get from one area of his farm to the other. Unsure of the size needed for the tunnel, he instructed the railroad company to make the tunnel four cows wide.

The City of Renton recently completed a project to restore the crossing and complete other enhancements, including infrastructure improvements, major drainage improvements for surface water management, other utility upgrades and the installation of a "sacrificial beam" and driver warning system that will help protect the new bridge.

ELIGIBILITY

Artists or fabricators may apply as a team, but the proposal should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator. Sculpture fabricators who have experience working with bronze, concrete, or any other durable material suitable for outdoors installations are encouraged to apply. Experience working with public construction projects is preferred.

SCOPE OF WORK

This is a phased project, with the initial phase to develop a detailed design of the public art including type of material recommended to construct, construction and installation documents, detailed plan regarding transportation and installation for the sculpture at the BNSF Railroad Crossing on Shattuck Ave S as pictured below. The second phase will be to manufacture and install the artwork.



The idea, as shown in the sketch to the right, is a play on words – 4 cows playing bridge at the “4 Cow Bridge”. Thus, the art piece is a representation of cows playing a game of bridge, with three cows sitting in chairs around a table and the fourth cow in the area thus leaving an empty chair which should be turned so that a passerby can sit in it surrounded by the cows. The piece is whimsical, with human-scale cows (child, adult, mix), that creates an inviting atmosphere as shown in this artist sketch. The concept is to invite the passerby to join in “the game”.



A historical marker (12” x 24” black granite) will be reinstalled with or near the public art as part of a larger “History Lives Here” walking tour in Renton. The project design should note placement of this marker. Visit www.rentonhistory.rentonwa.gov for more information about the marker.

This public art project is a collaborative effort between the RMAC, Renton Historical Museum, South Renton Neighborhood residents as well as local business owners. There is a lot of enthusiasm and community pride for the 4 Cow project. The location is an alternative to bypass the congestive traffic on Rainier Avenue and is a common passing point for area residents accessing services in the Rainier commercial corridor.

The selected fabricator will work with the 4 Cow Team, which includes representatives from RMAC, South Renton Connection Neighborhood group and the City’s Community & Economic Development and Public Works Departments, to better understand the context of the project and the meaning to the

community. The selected fabricator will be responsible for additional research, as necessary, to develop a final proposal. There are durability and maintenance concerns as this sculpture is anticipated to be used as a spot for photos, fun activities, and gatherings, but may also be a target for vandalism. The installation should be of sturdy construction and materials to allow multiple people sitting with the cows for photos without damage to the installation.

BUDGET

Phase I of this project is to develop the design details for the 4 Cow Public Art Sculpture. Phase II is to manufacture and install the artwork. The budget allocated for the entire project is anticipated to be approximately \$50,000. The budget for Phase I will not exceed \$6,000.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, May 23, 2012, 4:00 pm (Pacific Time)

PROPOSAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Proposal (not to exceed 2,000 characters): Please write a statement about your approach to making the art and its relevancy to the project. Your contact information, including e-mail should be included in this letter.
2. Résumé.
3. Three (3) references: Names, phone numbers and email addresses of three references who can speak to your experience as an art fabricator.
4. Work samples: Submit at least 10 images. Each should include the following information: title, date, media and short description. If submitting a portion of a larger work, please identify the context in the description. If multiple discs are submitted, please provide instructions on the order in which the samples should be played. Titles in the work sample description should correspond to labels on the discs submitted.

Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope: Applicants who want their work samples returned by mail must include a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage. Applicants may also pick up work samples at the Renton City Hall after receiving notification of the application results. Work samples without postage will be discarded 60 days after the notice of funding is sent. Every effort will be made to ensure safe handling of work samples, but the city of Renton cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage.

Mail or hand-deliver to:

Renton Municipal Arts Commission
4 Cow Tunnel Public Art Submittal

Community & Economic Development
Renton City Hall
1055 S Grady Way, 6th Floor
Renton, WA 98057

SELECTION CRITERIA

The fabricator or fabrication team will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: strengths in craftsmanship and construction merit of past works, experience and approach as evidenced in the written materials, and ability to complete a project of this nature on time and within budget. It is important to state that the City of Renton is committed to reflecting the diversity and cultural richness of our city. References provided as part of this application will be contacted prior to finalist interviews.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process will occur in two phases: 1) A selection panel will review all applications and select finalist(s) or finalist team(s). 2) The selection panel may meet a second time to interview finalists/finalist teams and select one fabricator or fabrication team for the project.

TIMELINE

Applications are due May 23, 2012 by 4:00 pm. If necessary, finalist interviews for this project will take place in June 2012. The selected fabricator or fabrication team must be available to work on this project in order to complete Phase I by late Fall 2012.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The selected fabricator/fabrication team will be notified at the conclusion of interviews and panel deliberations. Applicants will receive notification of the panel's decision by e-mail. The City of Renton reserves the right not to select any of the applicants.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community Development Project Manager, at jdavishayes@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-6589.